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American Red Cross Society, illustrating in story form the steps necessary to take for the prevention of tuberculosis.

The reports of the officers showed a large and constantly increasing membership and gratifying development of all of the activities of the Association. Mr. Watrous, in his report, recommended that in addition to the annual convention there be held at various points throughout the country and at intervals of a few months a number of "civic awakening" meetings to be conducted by officers and members of the Association and for the particular benefit of the cities and neighboring communities in which they are held. The Association hopes to issue before long in bulletin form many of the addresses read at the convention. The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows:

President, J. Horace McFarland, Harrisburg, Pa.; First Vice-President, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Philadelphia; Treasurer, William B. Howland, New York; Secretary, Richard B. Watrous, Washington, D. C.

**CO-OPERATION
IN CIVIC
IMPROVEMENT**

One of the hopeful signs of the times is the desire manifested for co-operation on the part of artists and business men. As Senator Root has said, the value of team work no longer needs to be demonstrated. The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held a conference not long ago on fire protection and the equipment of buildings and cities which brought together all the forces that were working toward these ends. Among those present were the Chiefs of the Fire Department and the Bureau of Building Inspection, the Director of Public Safety, representatives of the Philadelphia Fire Underwriters Association, the President of the Engineers' Club, and professional members of the Chapter. In New York a little later the Municipal Art Society held a meeting in the National Arts Club at which the possibilities of co-operation with the transit companies in the development of the city was discussed not by the members alone, but by

representatives of the transit companies. Among the speakers were the Vice-President of the New York Central Railroad, the President of the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Company and the Public Service Commissioner. By thus bringing together those who are most conversant with the practical side of such matters and those who regard them from the standpoint of the citizen regardful of the public good is bound to conduce not only to better mutual understanding but felicitous results.

**MINNEAPOLIS
ART GALLERY**

The Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts has opened a campaign for an Art Museum, one which will be an honor to the city. The matter has been well considered and a definite plan drawn up. Every organization in Minneapolis has been asked to co-operate, and on the committee, which will promote the scheme, manufacturers, retail merchants, bankers, journalists, and laborers are represented. It is a concerted movement. Impetus has been lent not only by the enthusiasm of members of the Art Society, but by a gift of four panels by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, recently purchased by Mrs. C. J. Martin, of Minneapolis, and presented by her to the Society in memory of her husband. They represent "Air," "Earth," "Fire," and "Water," and were originally intended as cartoons for stained glass. Each is a female figure gracefully posed and surrounded by the emblems of the element. The drawings, which have but lately left London, are bold and very decorative. The Minneapolis Society of the Fine Arts has arranged for an excellent series of transient exhibitions to be held during the remainder of the winter.

**PROGRESS
IN DENVER**

Denver believes in playgrounds, in winter as well as in summer. The day before Christmas the thermometer went down below freezing and directly the city officials obtained the use of several vacant corner lots in different sections and converted them into skating

ponds. Denver's playground system is one of the best in the United States. In 1910 the Park Board, which has charge of the playgrounds, expended \$12,000 on their improvement, and during the coming year a still larger appropriation will be made. Denver has been forehanded in securing breathing spaces for its citizens while they were to be had at comparatively little cost. If all cities would thus anticipate their needs it would be well. There are few cities, however, which show so much civic pride. Denver decorates its principal streets at Christmas with evergreens, placing large wreaths pendent on its electroliers and cedar on its light standards. Furthermore, a Denver firm has recently made an effort to give agreeable aspect to the ordinary board fence which customarily incloses the lot upon which a structure is being erected. Instead of the board fence in this instance there is an artistic arcade, supporting a paled-in roof along which shrubs have been placed. Another evidence of progressive movement along the lines of civic improvement and privilege is the series of exhibitions which is being held in the gallery of the Public Library under the auspices of the Artists' Club. The December exhibition consisted of a collection of etchings lent by Keppel & Company of New York. This month a collection of water colors by members of the Philadelphia and Washington Water Color Clubs, which was assembled by the American Federation of Arts, is being shown.

PRESERVATION
OF NATURAL
BEAUTY

The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society was established a little over fifteen years ago. It aims to protect beautiful features of the natural landscape from disfigurement, to prevent the mutilation or destruction of historic landmarks, to promote the development of city parks, and to cultivate popular appreciation of the scenic beauties of America. During the past decade members of the Society have made personal gifts aggregating over two million dol-

lars for public parks, statues, tablets, and the restoration and preservation of historic buildings. It has been influential in securing large appropriations for State Parks and is the Custodian of five State Reservations, among which may be mentioned Stony Point Battlefield, Watkins Glen, and Letchworth Park. Largely, if not entirely, through its instrumentality munificent gifts have been made to preserve the Palisades of the Hudson River and to establish what is now known as Palisade Park. It has taken a hand in the fight for Niagara and for the Hetch-Hetchy Valley preservation, and has prevented not a few historic buildings from being destroyed, among them Fraunce's Tavern, New York. All this it does through the co-operation of its members and the general public, stirring interest by means of public meetings, university lectures and the press. If this is not directly within the field of art it is certainly not far without the boundary; for beauty is a large element in art and the conservation of national individuality is essential to the development of a truly national art.

PLASTIC
CLUB'S
EXHIBITION

The Plastic Club, of Philadelphia, is a wide-awake association of women art workers, painters, sculptors, illustrators. It can boast not only attractive club rooms, but a well-lighted and comparatively spacious gallery. In this gallery in December an interesting collection of original illustrations in color, pastel sketches, and drawings in black and white by members of the club was exhibited. The work of Elizabeth Shippen Green, one of the Club's most distinguished members, was represented by large dramatic drawings illustrating a folk tale; fairies, wizards, midnight, forest depths, vividly depicted, told a weird and awesome story. Another of Miss Green's illustrations, "The Boy and the Flower," was in direct contrast, sunny, simple, and unimaginative. Jessie Willcox Smith's dainty, beautiful, and spiritual transcription, "Mother," one of her best-known works,